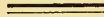


their love notes at that time. It is possible that they retire a little nearer to the mountains to breed. This is, up to date, the most northerly locality recorded at which the Rocky Mountain Screech Owl has been obtained.

Their eggs are pure white in color with little gloss; in shape they are elliptical oval, in fact decidedly more elongated than the eggs of the other races of *Megascops*, which are almost invariably perfectly oval in shape, and some almost spherical. The usual number laid to a set seems to be four. The first specimen, No. 22,450 National Museum collection, measures 1.48×1.16 inches. The set from Boulder Co., Colorado, collected by Mr. Gale, No. 22,931 National Museum collection, measures 1.60×1.18 , 1.57×1.16 , 1.49×1.17 , 1.46×1.17 inches. Thirty-eight eggs taken by Mr. Gale average $\times 1.44$ 1.18 inches. These eggs were in ten sets; three sets consisted of three eggs each, six of four, and one of five.



NOTES ON BIRDS OBSERVED IN THE VICINITY OF ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY.

BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

UNDER this title it is my object to present certain observations which seem worthy of record, and, for the sake of completeness, to include several notes which have before appeared in the pages of this journal. To the gentlemen, below mentioned, who have assisted me I desire to express my sincere thanks.

1. *Anas penelope*. WIDGEON. — This accidental visitor from the Old World was killed by Mr. Cornelius Demarest in the spring of 1880 or 1881; the specimen I have not seen, but Mr. Demarest's great familiarity with the Ducks which occur here, acquired during many years of experience, his identification of the bird at the time of capture, his accurate description of it now, and the fact of its being killed from a flock of three American Widgeon (*Anas americana*), all combine to render this record worthy of entire acceptance.

2. *Ectopistes migratorius*. PASSENGER PIGEON.—During the twelve years in which I have hunted in this locality I have found but two birds of this species, killed in September, 1878.

3. *Strix pratincta*. AMERICAN BARN OWL.—In 'The Auk' for October, 1886, p. 485, I recorded the occurrence at Englewood of a Barn Owl observed on August 26 of that year, its identity being made known by several feathers found beneath the tree from which it was startled. Since that date the ground in the vicinity has been the subject of more or less expectant observations, but not until August 19, 1888, were they attended by success. Then, as before, the ground and foliage beneath the same tree were found well sprinkled with droppings, and search revealed three unmistakable Barn Owl feathers, one a secondary. On this occasion the hour was much later—midday—and no bird was seen, but the unsoiled condition of the feathers and the fact that some of the droppings were on the upturned *under* side of a leaf from a recently broken but still unwithered weed, showed that the bird had only recently departed. Frequent returns were made to this spot and although it was evident that for a few days the bird still lingered in the vicinity my best efforts to find him at home resulted only in failure, and a seductively baited trap met with no better success.

4. *Ceophlœus pileatus*. PILEATED WOODPECKER.—I have in my collection a male of this species taken in September, 1885, by Mr. Jacob Ullrich on the Palisades at Englewood.

5. *Scolecophagus carolinus*. RUSTY BLACKBIRD.—Three individuals were shot from a small flock of five or six, December 24, 1884, the only occasion on which I have observed this species here during the winter.

6. *Chondestes grammacus*. LARK FINCH.—The capture of a male of this species was recorded in 'The Auk' for January, 1886, p. 136.

7. *Ammodramus maritimus*. SEA-SIDE FINCH.

8. *Ammodramus caudacutus*. SHARP-TAILED FINCH.—On the west shore of the Hudson River, some twenty-five miles from its mouth, at Piermont, N. Y., there is a large tract of salt meadow several hundred acres in extent. Acting on a suggestion from Dr. A. K. Fisher, who predicted the occurrence of both the above-mentioned birds there, the locality was visited July 2, 1887, and the prediction fully verified, both species being found abundant and evidently breeding. Later, September 24 of the same year, young in first plumage were secured. While we may not unnaturally expect these maritime birds to follow up large tidal streams, the present locality is, so far as I am aware, the only one in the Hudson River Valley in which they are known to breed, although there are other marshes in every way as favorable for their occupation.

9. *Spizella pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW.—Two males of this species were taken December 25, 1885, the latest date at which I have observed them.

10. *Tachycineta bicolor*. WHITE-BELLIED SWALLOW.—The following record given me by Mr. Richard Demarest of Englewood, I can fully vouch for. On December 31, 1882, "an unusually warm day for the season" Mr. Demarest found a flock containing "thousands of Swallows"; many were in the air and others were perched on the bayberry bushes which abound in the locality. So abundant were these perching birds that in two shots Mr. Demarest killed thirteen and these he took to the village to prove

a statement he quite naturally supposed would be disbelieved. While I did not see these birds, Mr. Demarest's description and the fact that they were found alighting on bayberry bushes, on the fruit of which they were probably feeding, leaves no doubt as to their identity.

11. *Lanius ludovicianus*. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE**.—August 24, 1888, a male of the year of this species was taken at Tappan on the New York-New Jersey State line. Mr. C. K. Averill records the capture of an immature bird of this species at Bridgeport, Connecticut, August 29,* 1888, and Mr. Dutcher a second from Suffolk Co., L. I., August 28, 1888.† These three captures of young birds at different localities so near the same date in connection with previous records would suggest migration of this species from the north during the latter part of August.

12. *Helminthophila leucobronchialis*. **BREWSTER'S WARBLER**.—The capture of three specimens of this puzzling hybrid has been before recorded.‡

13. *Helminthophila ruficapilla*. **NASHVILLE WARBLER**.—In a paper read before the Linnaean Society of New York, December 7, 1888, I presented the following record: §

“The circumstances attending the capture of a female Nashville Warbler on June 16, 1887, strongly indicate that the bird was breeding here; the sharp *chip* and anxious appearance of the bird, the shrivelled skin and absence of feathers on the abdomen and lower breast, I considered excellent evidence that there was a nest somewhere in the vicinity, which, however, careful search failed to reveal. Mr. J. A. Allen, to whom I showed the specimen in the flesh agreed with me that in all probability it was a breeding bird.”

14. *Geothlypis formosa*. **KENTUCKY WARBLER**.—In the paper above referred to I also recorded the Kentucky Warbler as a rather rare but regular summer resident on the Palisades at Englewood, a single nest containing five nearly grown young having been found June 16, 1886.||

15. *Mimus polyglottos*. **MOCKINGBIRD**.—I take from my note-book the following record concerning the breeding of Mockingbirds at Tenafly, N. J., three miles north of Englewood. These notes were given me by Mr. Martin, an old resident of the locality, and are corroborated by Mr. J. F. Paulison on whose lawn the birds were found nesting. After learning of their occurrence I visited the place on a number of occasions in what proved to be a vain hope of seeing these birds, but so far as known they did not return after the year 1885. Mr. Martin's story as I received it from him January 3, 1886, is substantially as follows: Ten or twelve years ago a pair of Mockingbirds appeared on Mr. Paulison's lawn, but a short distance from Mr. Martin's home; he watched their movements and discovered their nest, placed in an evergreen about ten feet from the ground.

* Auk, VI, Jan., 1889, p. 74.

† Ibid, April, 1889, p. 138.

‡ Auk, IV, 1887, p. 348.

§ See also Auk, VI, April, 1889, p. 198.

|| See also Auk, VI, April, 1889, p. 198.

When three eggs had been laid the female was killed, a few feathers found near the nest suggesting a cat as the probable murderer. The male, however, remained in the vicinity for several weeks, singing at times continuously for an hour or more; but apparently becoming discouraged at the non-appearance of his mate, he finally disappeared. Not another bird of this species was observed until May, 1884, when a pair was seen in the same garden and observed constructing a nest in a rose bush. Here they were undisturbed until their young, four in number, were nearly ready to leave the nest; these young were then taken and successfully raised in confinement. April 17, 1885, a Mockingbird, presumably the male, was seen in the same locality; later its mate appeared. The male was frequently heard singing, and although the nest was not found, young birds were seen, and there is little doubt that this time they succeeded in raising their brood. So far as I have been able to ascertain the birds have not been observed in the locality since this last-mentioned occurrence.

16. *Harporhynchus rufus*. BROWN THRASHER.—An individual of the species was taken January 31, 1885.

17. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. CAROLINA WREN.—A bird of this species was observed by me September 20, 1885, in a low wet wood, and presumably the same individual was frequently seen or heard in the same locality until November 20, when an examination showed it to be a male of the year. I have also records of single birds observed on April 24, 1886, and September 22 of the same year.

18. *Parus bicolor*. TUFTED TITMOUSE.—August 19, 1888, I secured a male of the year of this species. On at least two previous occasions I have seen or heard single individuals in the same wood in which the one above recorded was captured.

19. *Poliophtila cærulea*. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—Mr. John G. Bell, the well known naturalist-taxidermist, informed me during a recent visit I had the pleasure of making him that he had taken an individual of this species near his home at Piermont, N. Y., in March—the year he could not remember.

NOTES ON THE BLUE-WINGED WARBLER AND ITS ALLIES (*HELMINTHOPHILA PINUS*, *H. LEUCOBRONCHIALIS*, *H. LAWRENCEI*, AND *H. CHRYSOPTERA*) IN CONNECTICUT.

BY EDWIN H. EAMES.

I TAKE pleasure in recording my experience with a few of the *Helminthophila* in southern Connecticut during the season of 1889, inasmuch as their matrimonial affairs have become in-